

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN AF-06

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R 011841Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046648

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UG

SUBJECT: U.S.-UGANDAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 020388 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA'S PROPOSAL TO SEND MOUSTAPHA RAMATHAN, FORMER UGANDAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. AND PRESENTLY MINISTER OF COOPERATIVES AND MARKETING, TO WASHINGTON AS A SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY, DEPT HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE HIM AT LEVEL OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS. MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 3. FROM OUR STANDPOINT VISIT IS PRIMARILY ONE WHICH PERMITS US TO HEAR WHAT UGANDANS HAVE TO SAY AND TO EXPRESS OUR VIEWS ON CERTAIN MATTERS OF CONCERN TO US. MEETING WITH RAMATHAN DOES NOT SIGNIFY THAT WE HAVE ANY PLANS AT
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PRESENT TO REOPEN OUR EMBASSY IN KAMPALA OR TO REINSTITUTE

AN AID PROGRAM IN UGANDA. WE HAVE NO SUCH INTENTION AT THIS TIME.

2. DEPT HAS ATTEMPTED TO DOWNPLAY MEETING WITH UGANDANS. WE HAVE TOLD THEM THAT THE REQUESTED MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ARE NOT POSSIBLE, HAVE EMPHASIZED EXPLORATORY NATURE OF VISIT AND HAVE STRESSED THAT POSITIVE RESULTS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED.

3. DESPITE OUR EFFORTS TO DOWNPLAY MEETING AND AFTER WE AGREED TO RECEIVE RAMATHAN, AMIN DECIDED TO SEND DELEGATION OF EIGHT PERSONS TO WASHINGTON, INCLUDING THREE CABINET MINISTERS AS WELL AS UN PERM REP. IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT AMIN WILL PLAY THE MISSION TO THE HILT AT HOME AND IN AFRICA GENERALLY, BLOWING ITS IMPORTANCE ALL OUT OF PROPORTION.

4. EMBASSIES BONN AND LONDON ARE AUTHORIZED TO PASS SUBSTANCE THIS MESSAGE TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTRIES. OTHERWISE MESSAGE IS FOR INFORMATION OF OUR EMBASSIES ONLY. DEPT WILL SEND OUT ADDITIONAL INFO AND GUIDANCE WHEN MEETING OCCURS. INGERSOLL

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